

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A vascular occlusive device comprising:

a support member;

a bioactive agent disposed on said support member; and,

an outer barrier disposed on said bioactive agent to prevent exposure of said bioactive agent to bodily fluid when said vascular occlusive device is inserted into a blood vessel, said outer barrier exhibiting the characteristic of being substantially inert to bodily fluid but dissolving when exposed to an external fluid agent.

Claim 2. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the support member is a vascular occlusive embolic coil.

Claim 3. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 2, wherein the support member takes the form of a helically wound metallic coil.

Claim 4. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the bioactive agent takes the form of a coating applied to the support member.

Claim 5. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the bioactive agent is integral with the support member.

Claim 6. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 1, wherein the outer barrier takes the form of a coating applied to the bioactive agent.

Claim 7. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 2, wherein the outer barrier coating takes the form of a coating applied to the bioactive agent.

Claim 8. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said bioactive agent is comprised of polyglycolic acid and said outer barrier coating is comprised of ethylene vinyl alcohol.

Claim 9. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 8, wherein said external agent is comprised of dimethyl sulfoxide.

Claim 10. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said bioactive agent takes the form of a thrombus inducing coating.

Claim 11. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 2, wherein said bioactive agent takes the form of a thrombus inducing coating.

Claim 12. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 1, wherein said bioactive agent takes the form of a coating which induces the clotting of blood.

Claims 13. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 2, wherein said bioactive agent takes the form of a coating which induces the clotting of blood.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A vascular occlusive device comprising:
a support member;
a bioactive agent disposed on said support member; and,
an outer barrier coating disposed on said bioactive agent to prevent exposure of said bioactive agent to bodily fluid when said vascular occlusive device is inserted into a blood vessel, said outer barrier coating exhibiting the characteristic of being non-water soluble but dissolving when an external fluid activating agent is applied to said outer barrier coating.

Claim 15. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 14, wherein the support member is a vascular occlusive embolic coil.

Claim 16. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 14, wherein the bioactive agent takes the form of a coating applied to the support member.

Claim 17. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 14, wherein the bioactive agent is integral with the support member.

Claim 18. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 14, wherein said bioactive agent takes the form of a thrombus inducing coating.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A vascular occlusive device comprising:

a support member;

a bioactive agent disposed on said support member; and

an outer barrier disposed on said bioactive agent to prevent contact between said bioactive agent and bodily fluid when said vascular occlusive device is inserted into a blood vessel, said outer barrier exhibiting the characteristic of being substantially inert to blood but dissolving and exposing a portion of said bioactive agent when in the presence of ~~a biological~~ an external fluid agent.

Claim 20. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 19, wherein the support member is a vascular occlusive embolic coil.

Claim 21. (Previously amended) A vascular occlusive device comprising:

a support member;

a bioactive agent disposed on said support member; and,

an outer barrier comprising an activatable agent, said outer barrier covering said bioactive agent and exhibiting the characteristics of substantially preventing a reaction between the bioactive agent and bodily fluid when said vascular occlusive device is inserted into a blood vessel and permitting a reaction between the bioactive agent and bodily fluid upon activation by an external fluid source.

Claim 22. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 21, wherein the support member is a vascular occlusive embolic coil.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A vascular occlusive device comprising:
a bioactive support member which when place within the body causes a reaction with bodily tissue; and,
a barrier for preventing a reaction between the bioactive support emmber and bodily tissue when said vascular occlusive device is inserted into a blood vessel, said barrier exhibiting the characteristic of being non-water soluble but exposing the bioactive support member to bodily tissue when a ~~non-electrical~~ heat activating agent is applied to said barrier.

Claim 24. (Previously amended) A vascular occlusive device comprising:
a support member which when placed within the body causes a reaction with bodily tissue; and,
a barrier for preventing a reaction between the support member and bodily fluid when said vascular occlusive device is inserted into a blood vessel, said barrier exhibiting the characteristic of exposing a portion of said support member when in the presence of an external fluid agent.

Claim 25. (Original) A vascular occlusive device as defined in Claim 24, wherein the support member is a vascular occlusive embolic coil.

Claim 26. (Original) A method of treating an aneurysm comprising the steps of:

providing a vascular occlusive device comprising a support member, a bioactive agent disposed on said support member, and a barrier exhibiting the characteristic of normally preventing a reaction between the bioactive agent and a bodily fluid and of exposing a portion of said bioactive agent when an external agent is applied to said barrier;

inserting a delivery catheter into a blood vessel;

advancing the distal tip of the delivery catheter through the blood vessel until the distal tip is adjacent an aneurysm within the blood vessel;

delivering said vascular occlusive device with the delivery catheter into an aneurysm; and,

applying said external agent through the catheter and into the aneurysm to thereby activate said barrier to expose said bioactive agent to bodily tissue to thereby cause a reaction between the bioactive agent and the bodily tissue.

Claim 27. (Original) A method of treating an aneurysm comprising the steps of:

providing a vascular occlusive device comprising a support member having a bioactive surface which reacts with bodily tissue and having a barrier which exhibits the characteristic of normally inhibiting a reaction between said bioactive surface of said vascular occlusive device and bodily tissue;

inserting a delivery catheter into a blood vessel;

advancing the distal tip of the delivery catheter through the blood vessel until the distal tip is adjacent an aneurysm within the blood vessel;

delivering said vascular occlusive device with the delivery catheter into an aneurysm; and,

applying an external agent through the catheter and into the aneurysm to thereby activate said barrier and thus expose said bioactive surface to bodily tissue to thereby cause a reaction between the bioactive surface and the bodily tissue.

Claim 28. (New) A vascular occlusive device comprising:

a bioactive support member which when placed within the body causes a reaction with bodily tissue; and,

a barrier for preventing a reaction between the bioactive support member and bodily tissue when said vascular occlusive device is inserted into a blood vessel, said barrier exhibiting the characteristic of being non-water soluble but exposing the bioactive support member to bodily tissue when a laser activating agent is applied to said barrier.